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MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Security Council holds consultations to discuss Secretary-General's recommendations to extend mandate of United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission for another six months, until 9 April 1992.

- Secretary-General welcomes "concrete and positive" response by Soviet President regarding United States disarmament initiatives of 27 September.

- United Nations needs additional cash receipts of $100 million to meet current operating requirements, Acting Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management tells Committee.

- Secretary-General says he remains ready to invite representatives of all segments of Afghan society to a meeting if acceptable to the Afghans.

- General Assembly hears address by King of Spain and Foreign Ministers for Barbados, Maldives, Guinea-Bissau and Mali, as well as Permanent Representative of Guyana. Prime Minister of St. Kitts and Nevis and Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam, Botswana, Central African Republic and Benin, as well as Permanent Representative of Rwanda also address Assembly.

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The Security Council this morning held consultations to discuss a recommendation by Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar that it renew the mandate of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) for another six months, until 9 April 1992, at a cost of $40 million.

The Secretary-General made the recommendation in a report, dated 2 October, in which he said that the demilitarized zone patrolled by the mission had been generally respected during the first six months of operation and that the area had been calm.

According to the report, the main source of friction during the period had been the movement of persons from Iraq to Kuwait across a border which

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remained to be demarcated. Some of the crossings were by Bedouins, others by suppliers and customers of the illegal sheep market, and still others were by Iraqi civilians in search of weapons for trade.

The Security Council also deliberated today on the election of the new Secretary-General. In a statement to the press following consultations, Council President Chinmaya Rajaninath Gharekhan of India, declared that the process of selection of the next Secretary-General was now officially under way.

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The Secretary-General has welcomed the Soviet response to United States President Bush's announcement of 27 September to cut down on nuclear weapons and forces.

In a statement made attributable to his Spokesman today, the Secretary-General said he was "highly appreciative of the concrete and positive response" by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev this weekend to the United States decision to take a number of unilateral measures with regard to nuclear weapons.

He expressed hope that the "two important and dramatic initiatives" would provide a new momentum to the efforts to achieve further significant reductions in their nuclear arsenals, contribute to greater stability, as well as lead to the adoption of additional steps towards the objective of a comprehensive test ban.

The Secretary-General further urged the other nuclear-weapons States to consider responding to President Gorbachev's invitation to join in the bilateral effort.

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The United Nations needs an additional $100 million in cash receipts to address its "precarious" financial situation, according to the Acting Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management, Richard Foran. He spoke at a meeting of the General Assembly's Fifth Committee concerned with Administrative and Budgetary issues, on Friday, 4 October.

Unpaid assessed contributions as of 30 September, totalled $723.5 million for the regular budget, and $518.2 million for peace-keeping operations, Mr. Foran told the Committee. He said the Organization had exhausted the Working Capital Fund and the Special Account and had then borrowed from peace-keeping funds to meet current operating requirements. He also informed delegates that contributions to peace-keeping operations were insufficient to meet those expenditure requirements in October.

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The Secretary-General said today through his Spokesman that he remained ready to invite representatives of all segments of Afhgan society to a gathering, if such a gathering was acceptable to the Afghans.

Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar said that as the Afghan problem would eventually have to be solved by the Afghans themselves, it was natural that at some point they would have to get together. He was keeping in close contact with the Governments concerned and with various segments of the Afghan people to see how his proposal of 21 May could be transformed into reality.

The Secretary-General had proposed that a comprehensive agreement, to be reached without outside interference, should include a transition period, a cease-fire, elections and ending of arms supplies.

The Secretary-General's announcement follows a meeting on Friday with a representative of the Afghan Mujahedeen. At a press conference following that meeting, the Afghan representative had said that the Mujahadeen supported the Secretary-General's efforts for a just political settlement to the conflict.

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Opening this morning's session of the General Assembly, King Don Juan Carlos I of Spain said the United Nations had been first the spur and then the powerful driving force in the decolonization process, yet colonialism had not disappeared from the world. He expressed hope for the elimination once and for all of "any vestiges of anachronistic situations incompatible with the current world order". He spoke of Gibraltar, expressing hope that the Hispano-British negotiating process now under way would result in a solution.

The Spanish King said that 1992 -- five centuries after the meeting between the old and the new worlds -- would be a year of special importance for Spain. In that year, his country would be fully integrated into the European Community at the same time that the Community completed the single market and took further steps towards political, economic and monetary union.

In his statement, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Barbados, Maurice A. King, noted that the person to be chosen as the United Nations new Secretary-General, among other things, must be a leader capable of preserving the independence and integrity of the post. In making the selection, he said, due regard must also be given to the principle of rotation.

In its region, Mr. King said, Barbados welcomed the normalization of relations between Belize and Guatemala and the historic move towards a negotiated solution to any outstanding differences. A relaxation in tensions between these two neighbours would contribute to strengthening relations between Central America and the Caribbean community. Barbados looked forward to the inauguration, next month in Honduras, of what was hoped to be a process of regular ministerial dialogue and cooperation between those two regions.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Maldives, Fathulla Jameel, welcomed the admission of the seven new United Nations Member countries, in

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particular the Federated States of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands whom, he said, shared with the Maldives many geographic features and had similar political and economic conditions.

Speaking about the environment, Mr. Jameel noted it was an issue which could threaten the very existence of many of the nations present at the Assembly today. It had been a key concern of the Maldives, he said, given the threats posed due to global warming and possible sea level rise which could endanger the very survival of the island. The Maldives was looking forward to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to be held in Brazil next year.

The Permanent Representative of Guyana, Cedric H. Grant, told the Assembly that it had taken his country "every moment" since its admission to the United Nations 25 years ago, to successfully assert its right to participate fully in regional organizations and arrangements within its hemisphere. In January, Guyana was admitted as a member to the Organization of American States (OAS).

Speaking about the problems of the small States, he said that despite the advantages offered by regional economic and trading groups, it was necessary to ensure that the small countries were not marginalized. It should also be noted, he said, that economic activity in most developing countries had slowed over the last year. With continued recession, particularly in Latin America and Africa, the decline had reached the point where the prospects of recovery were becoming increasingly remote.

The Permanent Representative of Guinea-Bissau, Bubacar Touré, welcomed the establishment of the African Economic Community as a means to strengthen and develop commercial links between all nations of the continent. But the South-South dialogue was not enough, however successful, he said. He called on the developed countries to open their markets more widely to the exports from the developing countries and to increase their economic assistance to the poorest nations.

In his statement to the General Assembly, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mali, Tiebile Drame, emphasized that the overall economic situation in Africa was critical, despite the efforts made by its Governments to improve the conditions of their populations. The collapse of the prices of primary commodities, the huge burden of the external debt and the decline of economic assistance from the developed countries dimmed any prospect of recovery in Africa.

Mr. Drame also underlined the importance that his country, which had been suffering from drought and desertification, attached to the success of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

Opening the debate this afternoon, the Prime Minister of St. Kitts and Nevis, Kennedy A. Simmonds, said it was important to keep the development

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concerns of island developing nations on the international agenda, particularly at this time when the attention of the international community was taken by the monumental global events.

He spoke to the Assembly about the vulnerability of Caribbean States to natural disasters, global economic developments over which they had no control and an international economic order which determines and sets at a low level the prices of the things they sell, and escalates the prices of the things they buy. The Prime Minister said these developing States found themselves "consigned to a treadmill of poverty and underdevelopment".

In his statement, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam, Mohamed Bolkiah, said that although the cold war was over, many nations around the world were still worried about their security, in the light of continuing violence, social unrest and grave civil strife in several regions.

He cited three specific global issues which he said must be addressed immediately: the risk that certain development programmes might lead to great environmental damage; the drug menace which presents a lasting threat to the welfare of the young people who were the productive sectors of all nations; and the ever-increasing ability to cause human and material destruction. In order to find satisfactory solutions, he said, these problems should be tackled by a joint effort of the international community.

In his statement to the Assembly, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Botswana, Gaositwe K.T. Chiepe, said the historic excesses of extreme nationalism and ethnocentrism were threatening the peaceful evolution of the new world order. However, he said, the promise of peace transcended the perils because a world free of the threat of nuclear holocaust and political tyranny was the best insurance for peace and tranquility among nations and peoples.

Calling the situation in South Africa "hopeful", he said the time had come for the South African people to proceed to the conference table to negotiate a new democratic constitution. He called on the United Nations to continue to insist on the cessation of violence in the townships and elsewhere, so that an atmosphere conducive to negotiations could be created in South Africa.

Laurent Gomina-Pampali, the Foreign Minister of Central African Republic, in his statement stressed that there was a new trend in the developed countries to link any economic and other new type of assistance to the establishment of democratic institutions in the developing countries. Such an approach was flawed, in his opinion, since it did not fully take into account the genuine economic needs of the peoples in the poor countries, whose development depended largely on the external assistance.

In his statement to the Assembly, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Benin, Theodore Holo, called on the industrialized nations and the international agencies to increase their economic and financial assistance to the poor countries from the South, in the same spirit of solidarity that they had shown towards the Eastern European countries. It is only with external help, he said, that the new and fragile democracies of the South would be able to strengthen their infrastructures and overcome gradually their critical economic situation.

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